**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Bryan Memorial Town Hall**

**Washington Depot, CT**

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

September 5, 2018

7:30 p.m. Main Level Meeting Room

**Commissioners Present:** Mr. Hileman, Mr. Rimsky, Mr. Carey, Ms. Gager

**Commissioners Absent:** Mr. Bedini, Alt.

**Staff Present:** Ms. White, Ms. Hodza

**Others Present:** Mr. Cole, Ms. Audette, Ms. Ingrassia, Mr. Sherr, Members of the public

**REGULAR MEETING:**

Mr. Hileman called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and seated himself, Mr. Carey, Mr. Mr. Rimsky, and Ms. Gager.

Mr. Hileman welcomed Mr. Cole who will be an official member of the Commission tomorrow.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES:**

The Commissioners considered the minutes from their last meeting.

**Motion:** To approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of the August 1, 2018, by Mr. Rimsky, seconded by Ms. Gager, approved 4-0 vote.

**SUBSEQUENT BUSINESS:**

**Motion:** To include an update on the Sustainability Committee from Ms. Gager under Communications, by Mr. Hileman, passed unanimously.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Referral from the Zoning Commission for Petition to Amend Section 12.8 and 12.8.1 of the Town of Washington Zoning Regulations regarding Permits for Temporary Events:**

Mr. Hileman reminded everyone that the Planning Commission has a very narrowly defined role in that any referral coming from a town commission of a regulation change is submitted to them in order to determine whether the amendment is consistent with the Town’s Plan of Conservation and Development. He explained that the Planning Commission cannot rule on an amendment in terms of any one specific property or event.

Ms. Ingrassia of 63 Whittlesey Rd discussed the 5 Senses Festival that was held at 288 Bee Brook Rd. She stated that this first festival went well and they have received a lot of positive feedback from people who attended. She feels that the community understands that this is not just the Ingrassia’s and Pilobolus but about bringing the people together with something for everyone in our community. Ms. Ingrassia noted that amending Section 12.8 in the regulations would kill the possibility of another festival.

Mr. Hileman pointed out some conflicting language in the regulations. He then stated that every temporary event would have to go through the Special Permit process.

Mr. Rimsky feels that the intent of the submitted language was not considering the greater good of the community and was more specifically targeted. He noted the Green Fair, the Cemetery Tour, etc. would have to go thru the Special Permit process.

The Commissioners agreed that this would be unworkable for the Zoning Commission and ZEO and they do not see how this is consistent with the 2014 POCD. They discussed the importance of the arts in the community.

There was a brief discussion regarding other events in Town that this proposed amendment would affect.

Mr. Hileman read a draft letter of the Commission’s recommendation that would be sent to the Zoning Commission.

**Motion:** In consideration of the language referred to the Planning Commission by the Zoning Commission concerning revisions to Sections 12.8 and 12.8.1 of the Town of Washington Zoning Regulations, the Planning Commission finds that the proposed revisions are inconsistent with the Town’s 2014 Plan of Conservation and Development, by Mr. Hileman, seconded by Mr. Rimsky, passed by 4-0 vote.

Mr. Hileman stated that the Zoning Commission would need a super majority in order to pass this amendment.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Sustainability Committee**

Ms. Gager stated that the Board of Selectmen appointed the Sustainability Committee. She read the list of committee members that have volunteered.

**Administrative Business:**

**Revision of Subdivision Regulations – Section 11-14**

The Commissioners will continue their review at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Planning Commission on October 3, 2018.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. By Ms. Gager, seconded by Mr. Carey, approved 4-0 vote.

**FILED SUBJECT TO APPROVAL**

Respectfully Submitted,

By: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Shelley White, Land Use Clerk

September 12, 2018